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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/608,144	06/30/2003	Darryl Marshall Ashby	0284-0021	8182
37999	7590	12/31/2003	EXAMINER	
DEWITT ROGGIN PLLC 1455 PENNSYLVANIA AVE, SUITE 100 WASHINGTON, DC 20004			GUSHI, ROSS N	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2833		

DATE MAILED: 12/31/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/608,144	ASHBY ET AL.
	Examiner Ross N. Gushi	Art Unit 2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 30 June 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in —

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a);

Claims 1, 2, 3, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Oda et al. ("Oda").

Per claim 1, Oda discloses (see figure 2) an electrical connector comprising an elongate body having a first end, a second end, and a center section, the body being electrically conductive between the first end and the second end, each of the first end and the second end including an open socket and a contact; at least one gimbals formed on the exterior of the center section.

Per claim 2, each of the first end and the second end includes at least two contacts (as the term is used by applicant).

Per claim 3, each of the first end and the second end includes four contacts (as the term is used by applicant) surrounding the open socket.

Per claim 7, the body is hollow.

Claims 1, 4-6, and 8-10, 12, 13, 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Patterson et al. ("Patterson")

Per claim 1 and 23, Patterson discloses an electrical connector comprising an elongate body having a first end, a second end, and a center section, the body being electrically conductive between the first end and the second end, each of the first end and the second end including an open socket and a contact; at least one gimbal formed on the exterior of the center section.

Per claim 4, the at least one gimbal comprises four gimbals (col. 3, lines 44-51).

Per claim 5, the body center section comprises four sides.

Per claim 6, each of the four gimbals is formed on the exterior of each of the center section four sides (col. 3, lines 44-51).

Per claim 8, Patterson discloses at least four beams, two of the at least four beams extending between the center section and the first end, and two of the at least four beams extending between the center section and the second end.

Per claim 9, at least one of the four beams extends inwardly.

Per claim 10, at least one of the four beams arcs inwardly.

Per claim 12. the at least one gimbal is integral with the center section.

Per claim 13, the at least one gimbal is mounted to the exterior of the center section.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chandler.

Per claim 15, Chandler discloses a module comprising a receiver module front 16 having a body and a plurality of bores extending therethrough, a receiver module back

17 having a body and a plurality of bores extending therethrough; and the receiver module front and the receiver module back configured and arranged to mate together.

Claim 15 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Weisenburger.

Weisenburger discloses a module comprising a receiver module front 20 having a body and a plurality of bores extending therethrough, a receiver module back 22 having a body and a plurality of bores extending therethrough; and the receiver module front and the receiver module back configured and arranged to mate together.

Per claim 20, the receiver module front further comprises a pair of extensions 30 spaced apart a distance so that the receiver module back can be inserted therebetween.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Urban. Urban discloses a module comprising a receiver module front 10 having a body and a plurality of bores extending therethrough, a receiver module back 20 having a body and a plurality of bores extending therethrough; and the receiver module front and the receiver module back configured and arranged to mate together.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patterson as in claim 8 in view of Bakermans.

Regarding claim 11, Patterson does not disclose eight beams. Bakermans discloses a box terminal with four beams. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to replace the first end and the second end of the Patterson two beam-type ends with four beam terminal ends as taught in Bakermans. The suggestion or motivation for doing so would have been to improve the contact area, reliability, and electrical connection as taught in Bakermans (see e.g. col. 1, lines 10-16).

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oda as in claim 1 in view of Chandler and Weisenburger.

Oda does not disclose a module comprising a receiver module front having a body and a plurality of bores and a receiver module back having a body and a plurality of bores extending therethrough. Chandler discloses a module comprising a receiver module front 16 having a body and a plurality of bores and a receiver module back 17 having a body and a plurality of bores extending therethrough. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to make the Oda housing out of two mating housing parts as taught in Chandler. The suggestion or motivation for doing so would have been to facilitate assembly of the device and securing of the contacts in the housing and as is well known in the art. Chandler does not discuss snap fittings. Weisingburger discloses securing mating housing parts together using snap fittings (32, 44). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to clamp the Oda/Chandler housing parts together using well known means such as snap fittings as taught in

Weisenburger. The suggestion or motivation for doing so would have been to secure the housing parts together as taught in Weisenburger.

Claims 16, 17, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chandler as in claim 15 in view of Werhle.

Regarding claims 16, 17, and 22 Chandler does not discuss gimbals. Werhle discloses modules including gimbals (e.g. at elements 24 46) in each of a plurality of bores and contacts interfitting with the gimbals. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to include gimbals in the Chandler bores and corresponding contact surfaces as taught in Werhle. The suggestion or motivation for doing so would have been to facilitate mating of mating connectors as taught in Werhle.

Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chandler and Werhle as in claim 16 in view of Patterson as discussed regarding claim 6. Wehrle does not disclose four separate gimbals. Chandler and Werhle do not use four gimbals. As discussed above regarding claim 6, Patterson notes that a plurality of gimbals may be used to allow pivoting of the terminal. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to use four gimbals (and corresponding contact surfaces) in the Chandler device (as modified by Werhle as discussed above). The suggestion or motivation for doing so would have been to allow pivoting of the terminal in the housing bore, as taught in Patterson.

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Urban in view of Nix et al. ("Nix"). Urban discloses ITA module 34 including a body, bores and pins. To the extent that Urban discloses wire wrapping to the pin 32 instead of a crimp

portion, Nix discloses a crimp portion on the terminal. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to replace the wire wrap pin portion with various wire to terminal connection means, including crimping portions (as taught in Nix) . The suggestion or motivation for doing so would have been to securely attach a wire to the terminal, as taught in Nix and as is well known in the art.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 24-28 are allowable. The prior art does not suggest the interface as claimed, including the combination of all the claimed elements, the combination including the adapter module and contacts as claimed, the electrical connector including male pinned connectors as claimed, and including the receiver module including the dual female contacts as claimed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ross Gushi whose telephone number is (703) 306-4508. If attempts to reach the examiner by phone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley, can be reached at (703) 308-2319. The phone number for the Group's facsimile is (703) 872-9306.

[Handwritten signature]